

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

Such ~~n-a~~ system for manipulation is known from the U.S. Pat. No. 6,294,063.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

A very practical embodiment of a system for manipulation of small objects in which the invention is employed ~~is defined in Claim 8. Pick-up uses pick-up~~ carrying fluid droplets are disposed from a reservoir on the pick-up plate. In general a large number of pick-up carrying fluid droplets are disposed on the pick-up plate. Preferably, the pick-up plate is provided with a plurality of electrodes in a predetermined spatial pattern. Upon activation of these electrodes, the pick-up carrying fluid droplets are disposed automatically according the pattern of these electrodes. In particular a micro-fluidic array is practical for the deposition of many pick-up carrying fluid droplets on the pick-up plate. Notably, the micro-fluidic array allows parallel handling of a large number of pick-up carrying fluid droplets. Subsequently, the pick-up

carrying fluid droplets on the pick-up plate are loaded with the small objects, for example by lifting them from a storage plate. The small objects to be manipulated are then ~~despatched~~dispatched to the feeding plate on which the feeder target fluid droplets are disposed. The pick-up plate loaded with the small objects and the feeding plate carrying the feeder target fluid droplets are moved close to one another so that the small objects are brought into contact with their high wettability sides with the feeder target fluid droplets provided on the feeding plate. The pick-up plate and the feeding plate are then moved away from one another so that the small objects are lifted off or picked-up from the feeding plate. The target fluid droplets loaded with the small objects are then shipped to the placing plate via a joint which links the feeder plate with the placing plate. The joint may be a flexible joint, so that the pick-up plate and the placing plate can be moved relative to one another while they remain linked by the flexible joint. The feeder plate has several electrodes which upon activation render the region around the activated electrodes more hydrophilic. Adjoining electrodes are successively activated so that the target fluid droplet is moved e.g. step by step over the electrodes toward the flexible joint. The loaded target fluid droplets may be

transported over the flexible joint to the placing plate. That is, the loaded target fluid droplets are allowed to roll down the flexible joint onto the placing plate. To this end, the flexible joint is provided with its adjoining electrodes. Then the loaded feeder target fluid droplets are transported over the flexible joint by successive activation of the electrodes of the flexible joint. In this way the feeder target droplets also function to carry the small objects from the feeder plate via the joint to the placing plate.